



# Joe Sanfelippo



*Milwaukee County Supervisor - 17th District*

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June 2011

Committee Assignments:

Personnel (Chair) • Intergovernmental Relations • Parks, Energy and Environment

## Dear Friends and Constituents,

Greetings and thank you for reading my June E-newsletter.

We haven't seen much of spring yet, and summer will officially start on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Typical Wisconsin weather, I guess. As we transition into summer, remember to be on the lookout for kids, as you are driving around. Now that schools out and the weather is getting warmer, they will be outside playing once again in full force.

On June 14<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate Flag Day, so remember to put your flags outside.

## County Legislative Information Center (CLIC)

A new online tool called CLIC was launched in early June to cut down on paper costs, equipment and staff time. CLIC users are now able to track legislative items from resolutions through adoption or rejection. You can access files, agendas and minutes using the new program. Please visit the [CLIC website](#) for your interactive County Board.

## County Executive Cancels Public Art Spending

You may recall from my April E-newsletter, I wrote that the County Board had voted to spend nearly \$800,000 on public art sculptures. I voted against the spending at the time, but the majority of the board voted to approve the funds.

I am happy to say that the County Executive has cancelled the project and the money will be put into a general fund for maintenance and repairs of County property which is a much better cause at this time.

The lesson we can learn from all this is that once a government program is started, it is difficult to take away. The public art program began back in 2000. An amount equal to 1% of the spending on every County construction project is put aside and spent on public art. When the program began more than a decade ago, the economy was in much better shape. However, since 2008, we have been mired in one of worst recessions this country has ever experienced. Furthermore, the insane amount of debt that the federal



government is racking up has the country bogged down in one of slowest recession-recoveries on record.

As tough as times are, the Board nonetheless agreed to spend the money on public art. That was a mistake. If not completely abolished, the public art program should at least be suspended until the economy recovers. I'm glad the County Executive has taken a positive first step.

### **Redistricting Update**



The County Board approved a preliminary plan for redistricting that lowers the number of supervisors from 19 to 18. The plan has now been forwarded to the local municipalities within the county so that they can draw aldermanic ward lines. Once every municipality has completed their work and approved a plan, the full board will take a final vote on the county plan. This final vote will take place later this year.

I did not vote for the 18 seat preliminary plan. Rather, I proposed my own plan that would have reduced the number of seats down to 15, saving taxpayers more than \$375,000 per year. Unfortunately the board rejected my plan.

There seems to be a lot of unhappiness in the community with the preliminary plan the Board adopted. Questions have arisen as to whether the plan represents all ethnic groups fairly, whether it was adopted legally, how the boundary lines were

determined, and why 18 seats were chosen. There is a strong potential for legal action.

Over the next few months, several organizations will hold public informational meetings to allow for more input into the process. One of these meetings will be held June 22<sup>nd</sup> by the Whitefish Bay Women's Club. If you are interested in attending, please contact my office for more details.

I fully expect that we will see at least a couple of more plans presented for consideration before the Board takes the final vote. Once the plan is adopted, it will be in place until 2024, so we have to make sure we do the right thing.

### **Committee Assignment Revisions**

With the election of two new Supervisors this past April, Chairman Holloway has rearranged the County Board standing committee assignments. I was moved from the Judiciary, Safety, and General Services Committee to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee, and I was promoted to Chairman of the Personnel Committee. You can find a link [here](#) to a list of all the committees, an explanation of what they do, and a schedule of when they meet. The top of the page also contains an audio link that you can use to listen to live meetings.

I want to thank Chairman Holloway for his leadership and his confidence in me.



### Wednesday Hikes at Wehr

June 15, 22, 29, 2011  
Program continues on Wednesdays  
through the summer  
9:30–10:30 a.m.

Join **Wehr Friends and Volunteers** for a brisk hike that combines exercise, beauty, and camaraderie.

Loop the lake, wander the woods, or scurry through the savannah! The terrain may be uneven or muddy.

Dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes for the hike.

Wehr Nature Center  
9701 W. College Ave., Franklin, WI 53132  
(414) 425-8550

### Cool Waters is now OPEN!!

Hit the giant waterslides or lay in the zero-depth pools!

Monday–Thursday 10:00am–8:00pm

Friday–Sunday 10:00am–6:00pm

Buy a season pass that is good both for **Cool Waters** and **David F. Schulz Aquatic Center**!

### Hit the Beach this Summer!

Enjoy fun and sun at **Bradford Beach**! Round up your friends, grab some sunscreen and have a great time at your own Milwaukee County beach!

Visit [www.bradfordbeachjam.com](http://www.bradfordbeachjam.com) for information on volleyball leagues and tournaments, family activities and yoga classes.

### Fish Fry in the Parks

Served in your Milwaukee County Parks from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

**Brown Deer Golf Clubhouse, Grant Park Golf Clubhouse and Whitnall Park Golf Clubhouse.**

Visit the Friday Fish Fry [website](#) for more information.

### Father's Day at the Milwaukee County Zoo!

Come celebrate Father's Day at the Milwaukee County Zoo with your dad.

Fathers are **free** on Sunday, June 19, 2011 from 9:00am–5:00pm

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